



# PH Hometown News

Volume 2, Issue 1

January 2001

## PH POCs

- AFMOA  
Col Deneice Van Hook 297-4280  
Lt Col Fred Kelsey 297-4269  
Maj Lisa Pegues 297-4216  
MSgt Mark Mellinger 297-0187
- ACC  
Col Robin Taylor 574-1268  
SMSgt Theron Reed 574-1294
- AMC  
Col (S) Rex Brennan 779-6336  
CMSgt Jeff Strout 779-6336
- Space Command  
Col Vicky Fogelman 692-6810  
CMSgt Rich Johnson 834-1206
- AFMC  
Col (S) Judith Holl 787-6728  
SMSgt Steve Henry 785-2510 X323
- AETC  
Col Diana Barnicott 487-6536  
CMSgt Ricky Adair 523-7710
- USAFE  
Lt Col Ken Hall 314-480-7670  
SMSgt (S) Tom Bocek 314-480-2004
- PACAF  
Lt Col Bill Courtney 315-449-1269  
SMSgt Bill Hollowood
- AFSOC  
Lt Col Richard "Joel" Williams 641-5625  
Maj Raphael Sharron 641-5625
- Reserves  
SMSgt Patricia Tooley 497-0600
- ANG  
Lt Col Paul Rehme 278-7601
- USAFSAM  
Col Tom Stedman 240-2269  
CMSgt Rich Hollins 240-3766

## Inside this issue:

CONUS Corner	2
OCONUS Happenings	2
CFM Focus	2
MAJCOM Leader	3
USAFSAM Member	3
Base Focus	3
Retention	4

## HISTORY MAKER

The Biomedical Sciences Corps now has it's first ever brigadier general... Brigadier General Richard Ford, an Individual Mobilization Augmentee assigned as a mobilization assistant to the Air Force Medical Operations Agency (AFMOA) Commander. Brigadier General Ford holds a Public Health Air Force Specialty Code.

His most recent efforts have included an extensive anthrax education program along with being a key member helping to define what role the Air Force Medical Service would play if the United States were hit with a biological weapon attack. As most of you know, the homeland defense initiatives being worked are

very "hot topics" in today's environment. The ANG and AF Reserves have many active members in this arena. While Brigadier General Ford has excelled in his military career, he has also very busy in his civilian life as well. He is one of the country's foremost experts on animal health care as well as diseases of animals transmissible to humans. He is



Brig. Gen. (Dr.) Richard Ford

a professor of medicine at the College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University.

The promotion ceremony was held last April 3rd at Bolling AFB with Lt General Carlton presiding. I don't know how many of our Public Health family knew we had a Brigadier General on our team...but we are very proud of his accomplishments and look forward to seeing his efforts come to reality. Brigadier General Gary Murray, AFMOA commander stated "He brings his extensive experience from his civilian job to the Air Force Medical Service as a force multiplier. That is what the mirror force is all about." I couldn't agree more with you sir! Well done General Ford!

## SKUNKWORKS...Send me your Best Practices!

**Dateline MacDill:** SrA Kristy Brown was the John Levitow Award recipient and winner of the Academic Excellence Award at a recent Airman Leadership School and won the 6th MDG Airman of the Quarter (Oct-Dec and going for the Wing honors next),

Capt James Coker won the 6th MDG Company grade Officer of the Quarter (Oct—Dec and going for Wing also) and was selected as the 6th MDG Exec Officer recently.

**Dateline Ramstein GE:** A1C Amanda Sutton was selected as 86 MDG Out-

standing Airman for Oct-Sep 00 and will go on to compete for 86th Airlift Wing honors! Good luck to all and thanks for your accomplishments.



## CONUS Corner

Here is the latest from CONUS:

**Dateline MacDill:** Lt Col Yolanda Geddie arrived at MacDill AFB earlier this month from Lackland AFB.

**Dateline McGuire:** A1C Virginia Wheatley was selected Below the Zone to the rank of Senior Airman...way to go Virginia!

**Dateline Ellsworth:** SSgt Mary Bohner NCOIC of the Communicable Disease Section has really gone above and beyond...she was selected for promotion to SSgt recently, she was Airman of the Year for the Medical Group and NCO of the Quarter for the last quarter also for the medical group.

This shows consistency...something many of our family folks show over and over again throughout their Air Force career...Way to go Mary...good luck on the next level!

**Dateline ANG 155th ARW in Lincoln Nebraska:** Did you know that the PH NCO of the Year for the ANG is MSgt Tracy Borgman. She is a full time PH technician and handles all of the day-to-day program management (including the PHO duties since the PHO left recently). She is currently applying for the PHO position (she has a bachelors degree in Biology and over 10 years experience. She is currently unmarried and

enjoys sports, reading and spending time with her family. The PHO she is trying to replace was Lt Col Louis Perino (who transferred to the 150th MDS in New Mexico back in August). He was the medical Intelligence Officer and managed the weekend training programs for the unit. Good luck to Tracy on the PHO position and to Lt Col Perino in New Mexico. I know there are many other great things happening out there...these are but a few of the highlights. This is truly a mirror force...We have great people on both active duty and in the ARC! Great job to one and all!

## OCONUS Happenings

**Dateline RAF Upwood:** MSgt Tom Lane was selected as the SNCO of the Year for the 423rd Medical Flight (good luck with the next level competition) and SSgt Laura Ellington is retiring this month (we all wish you the best of luck with your retirement).

**Dateline 31st MDG in USAFE:** MSgt Scott James was selected the SNCO of the Year for the Medical Group (fantastic!).  
**DATeline USAFE:** HQ USAFE (Lt Col Hall and SMSgt Bocek) hold a monthly teleconference where they discuss several issues and current topics from the

Public Health Corporate Board Video Teleconferences (VTC) and the monthly SNCO Council Teleconferences as well as share tips on how to solve some of their problems. USAFE has scheduled a prevention meeting for their personnel coming up in April 2001.

## CFM Focus—Budgeting

The time of year is coming for offices to project their budgets for the coming FY. Some offices sit back and see what RMO will give them without any input at all. Gather information and determine your needs for next year (which starts 1 Oct 01). Sometimes these requirements are very difficult to predict. Let's face it...things happen. But we need to be prepared and try our best to identify what we will

need...based on what we know now. Our dear friends the BEE community have jumped on the CE funding bandwagon and they have learned some very valuable lessons by using the ACES program from CE. A similar program is being considered for use by all of Team Aerospace. My advice...start learning the fine art of planning, programming and budgeting. A good place to start might be to ask the BEE folks to help

train your office personnel. Our folks are really good at working with data...what better data to work with...our own checkbook (so to speak). This data might help you justify program improvements in the future. Also, talk with your RMO folks and try to get an idea of exactly what they need from you. Usually, the leadership performs this task...but everyone should have input into this critical area!

## Meet a MAJCOM Leader

Meet SMSgt William Hollowood, the 18th Aerospace Medicine Squadron Superintendent and PACAF 4E0X1 Functional Manager. Bill is from Buffalo, New York. His previous assignments include Langley AFB, VA from 1982-1986; Kadena AB Japan 1986-1989; Davis-Montham AFB, AZ from 1989 to 1996 with a six month tour in the United Arab Emirates (1990-1991); Hickam AFB, HI from 1996 to 1998 and back to Kadena AB, Japan from 1998 to the present. Bill married

Tammie and they are raising two wonderful sons Christopher who is 14, Jonathon who is 7 and a beautiful daughter Taylor who is 4 years old. Besides spending time with his family, Bill enjoys reading and keeping active with local military and civilian communities. SMSgt Hollowood is an integral member of our Public Health SNCO Council and helps with many issues that the PH Corporate Board is currently working on. A recent quote "I have seen us evolve from Veteri-

nary Public Health Service to our present career field title; the name has changed but one constant is the quality of our enlisted force. Public Health has some of the most talented enlisted folks in the Air Force Medical Service and the US Air Force," almost says it all. He further stated "Our career field's diversity demands we tackle a wide variety of issues and we always deliver. It is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated group of airmen."

## Meet a USAFSAM Key Member

This month I would like you to meet Verna J. Hansen, a GS-5 Secretary for Community Health and Operational Health Division of the Aerospace education and Training Department. She started at USAFSAM back on 3 Oct 1988. She was born in El Paso Texas. Since her father was active duty Army she has lived in Texas, Georgia, Illinois, Germany and New Mexico. Her hobbies

include counted cross stitch (and she does a fantastic Public Health shield), beadwork and reading. She has been married to MSgt Monte Hansen for the past 17 years. Together they have 3 "kids" living at home with them...Pappy (who is a 10 1/2 year old black Lab/Chow), Freyja (an 8 1/2 year old Norwegian For-

est Cat), and Raven (a 1 1/2 year old Black Lab). They wish they could claim them on their taxes...oh well. She really has enjoyed working with

*"Public Health people are the best in the world and I've been very fortunate to work with 'tons' of them over the past 12+ years"*

Public Health people for over 12 years. Thanks Verna for sharing a slice of your life with us!

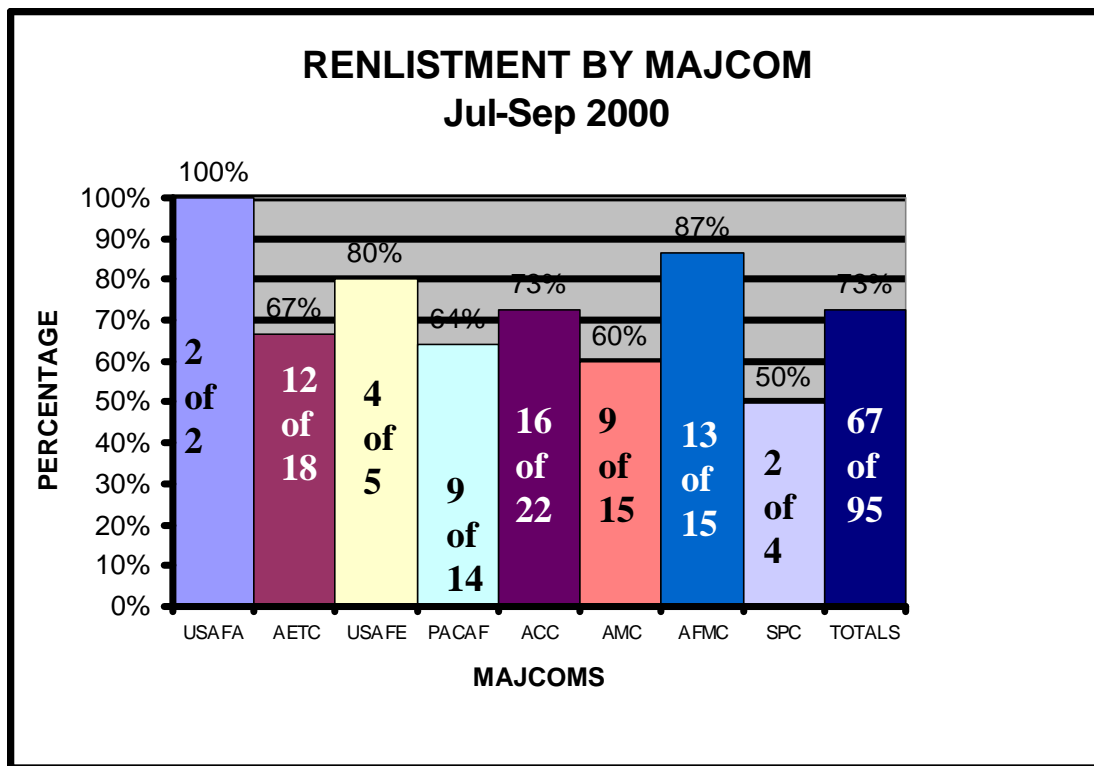
## Base Focus—Osan

From our fine folks at Osan: Korea has a diverse history, rich in cultural beauty and gracious people, yet still exhibits signs of a country recovering from war. Osan is considered by many to be the best remote assignment in the Air Force! It's home to the 51<sup>st</sup> Fighter Wing, "Mustangs - Leading the Charge", the Air Force's most forward-deployed fighter wing! Located only 48 miles South of the Demilitarized Zone, or, "DMZ" as it is commonly referred to by the military populace. A tour of the DMZ is mandatory for all newly assigned personnel and leaves a lasting impression, depicts an 'eerie' presence as the only place on Earth where two countries are "technically" still at war! Justifiably servicing the 51<sup>st</sup> FW motto: "Tip of the Spear" and "Ready to Fight Tonight." This is where the rubber meets the road when it comes to Public Health....you name it, we've got it... malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Korean Hemorrhagic Fever, leptospirosis, hantavi-

rus, STDs, TB, etc, etc.

The lead pilot for the PH Flight is Capt Brian Blalock from Liberty, MS. He enjoys photographing local Public Health eye sores like raw beef carcasses covered with flies, pig heads, undercooked chicken on a stick and edible insects. He also likes women with big hair and southern accents...if he could find one that makes banana pudding from scratch he'd get married...NO SUCH LUCK IN KOREA! His weapons systems officer (WSO) and #1 wingman is MSgt Corey Deery from Jamestown, ND "Go Blue Jays". His delights include golf, good friends, the ocean and the fact he is retirement eligible in Aug 01. On the side folks let me tell you, MSgt Deery is a dancing fool! His assistant wingman is MSgt (S) Velvan Webb from Middlesboro, KY "blue grass hick". He enjoys spending quality time with his family, church activities, reading, guitar, and watching old war movies. The remaining formation includes: SSgt Lloyd Alston from Darien, GA "Go Bucks" he en-

joys all sports; SSgt Shametia Johnson (McConnell) from Mobile, Alabama, a.k.a. military brat "Go Magicians" she enjoys reading, great outdoors, ceramics and figures. SrA Teresa Forward from Colorado Springs, CO "Go Broncos" who enjoys singing, drawing Disney characters, and dancing. SrA Mandi Bales from Wichita, KS "Go Buffaloes" she enjoys Lladros figures and Boyds bears. A1C Miranda Marie Valentine from Arthur, NE "Go Wolves" she enjoys movies, running and working out and A1C Ebony Burks our new arrival from Tech School, she comes to us from Philly, PA she enjoys snow skiing, cooking, and shopping. Korea offers the Public Health professional a broad range of challenges from A (Anthrax) to D (Decon) to S (STDs) to Z (zebra print mink blankets). A remote assignment to ROK provides a member with a lifetime of stories, professional growth, an inner look at themselves, and a unique "feather" for their military career cap!



## Retention Efforts

Retention throughout the Air Force has been an item of interest lately. Initial recruiting efforts are suffering somewhat and the numbers of recruiters have been dwindling. The USAF is striving to fix recruitment and retention rates throughout the USAF. Rates in many AFSCs have been falling over the past year or two. These rates are traditionally looked at in the following ways: First Term, Second Term, Career and Total. From Jul-Sep 2000 the First Term rates held steady at 100% while the Second Term rates started at 50% went up to 100% for two months and then dropped to 0% for Oct 2000. The Career rates are holding at 100% while the Total rate went from 50 to 100% and in Oct 2000 dropped to 80%. I do not have any long term data. I am tracking this data to see if there will be any significance

over time. In an effort to determine why our people are deciding to leave the USAF and PH...I am trying to institute an exit interview (format worksheet is being developed and staffed for approval). I have suspicions as to why folks decide to leave...but I would like to have hard data to show why our family members make their decisions. If the data shows an area where the PH leadership can do something differently or change something that would help the retention efforts...then we need to have the visibility and data to support any changes. We cannot make improvements to retention if we don't know what the problems are. This will be one tool to use to identify the problems. If you know of problems and would like to offer solutions...there are several avenues you can take to help us all improve. You can use your

chain of command; utilize your MAJCOM PHO and NCO; or send info up to the PH leadership through several channels such as SNCO Council, Corporate Board, CFM or Associate Corp Chief for PH. You can use e-mail, telephone (direct or through teleconference) or snail mail. I realize some folks have dreams to move on to bigger and better things in life...that is a good thing...but I cannot stand it if a person wants to stay in but decides to separate because of something that could have been prevented. We want to keep the best people and try to keep them happy at performing the best job in the USAF! We can create a Win-Win situation when we can match a person's personal goals with the goals of the USAF and Public Health. If you have ideas...please share them with me...I care!